



2018

Wolf

Cynthia Frazier

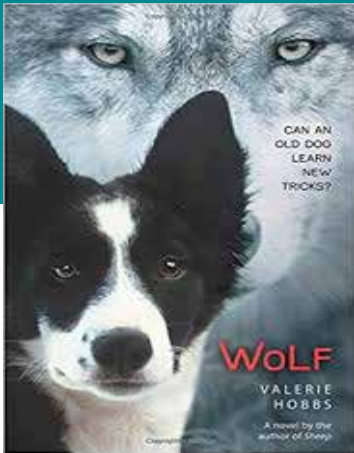
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Book Review

Wolf

Author

Valerie Hobbs

Illustrator

Reviewer

Cynthia Frazier

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary, Intermediate

Pages

117

Year

2013

Publisher

Farrar Straus Giroux

ISBN

9781442432796

He is now called Jack, after having other names, adventures, and roles in the book *Sheep*. Four years later, Jack is back doing what a Border Collie was born to do. Jack and his human Luke have found a good home on the sheep ranch with people who care about them. Jack senses an unfamiliar odor on the farm, and then two of his flock are killed on his watch. The Wolf has come to California in search of a new home and a mate. A fierce confrontation with another animal leaves him with a wound that won't heal and a sickness that he fears will take his life. When he arrives in the forest near Jack's sheep ranch, he finds a supply of easy prey. He is a large, terrifying predator, who though weakened, is still very swift and strong. Jack has to use all of the things he has learned throughout his experiences in life to protect his family from the vicious Wolf. To understand all of Jack's abilities, it might be helpful to read the first book in the series, *Sheep*.

'Everyone has a story to tell' says middle grade and young adult author Valerie Hobbs. She has written over a dozen books, based on experiences, friendships, life lessons, and even pets, that have won prestigious awards. *Wolf*, is a sequel to *Sheep* which won the California Young Reader Medal. The story has a different perspective as it is told from two points of view, the Wolf who has been driven from his pack and Jack, the Border Collie, who knows that a new danger threatens those in his care. Because there are two distinct stories, the plight of the dangerous wolf creates sympathy for his situation as readers come to understand him. Jack, though aging and slower, is the personification of the hero who would fight to the death to protect his 'flock.' This book is an appropriate chapter book for parent and grade-school child to read together or for teacher/pupil reading. It could engender discussions on responsibility, honor, dealing with disappointment, immaturity vs. experience, wolves and their place in nature, etc.

*Contains mild violence.
animal death